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L. Spruell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Downing, S. P.

*Apparatus and Method for Sensing Media in a
Printing Device*

Application No: 09/995,900

Filed: November 28, 2001

Examiner: Nguyen, Hoai An D

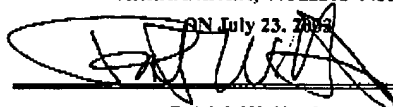
Art Unit: 2854

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ON July 23, 2003


Patrick W. Hughey**RESPONSE A**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Sir:

In reply to the non-final office action mailed March 24, 2003, please consider the following remarks. Included with this amendment is a petition to extend for one month the period for response.

The following claim listing includes the entire set of pending claims.

Pending Claims

1. An apparatus for use in a printing device having a printzone in which printing composition is deposited on a print medium, comprising:

a print medium drive mechanism configured to advance the print medium through the printzone;

a pinch roller mechanism biased against the print medium drive mechanism and configured to deflect away from the print medium drive mechanism as the print medium passes between the pinch roller mechanism and print medium drive mechanism; and

a proximity sensor configured to measure the extent of deflection of the pinch roller mechanism.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a processing device coupled to the proximity sensor and configured to determine a thickness of the print medium based on the measured extent of deflection of the pinch roller mechanism.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the proximity sensor is further configured to output a signal indicative of the extent of deflection of the pinch roller mechanism and the